

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 5 with the following replacement paragraph:

In Fig. 1 the input stage of such a hearing device is shown. The two outputs of the microphones M1 and M2 are being fed to a signal processing unit 1 in which the signals - whether they are available in digital or in analogue form - are being processed in a so-called "beam forming"-algorithm. Further information regarding the beam forming-algorithm is disclosed, for example, in the international patent application having the publication number WO 99/04598 U.S. Patent No. 6,766,029.

Please replace the last full paragraph beginning on page 7 and continuing to page 8 with the following replacement paragraph:

As has been already described, the switching from one hearing program to ~~an~~ otheranother, i.e. from the "omni signal" to the "directional signal" and vice versa, can result in confusion of the hearing device user, especially in case the switching is done automatically, i.e. without any ado by the hearing device user, in other words, if the switching is a surprise for the hearing device user. According to the present invention, it is therefore provided that a smooth transition is arranged for a state change of a switching state P in order to obtain a smooth transition from an "omni signal" to a "directional signal" and vice versa, respectively. Therefore, it is provided for a preferred embodiment of the present invention to realize a low-pass filter of first order in the filter unit 2, which low-pass filter preferably has a time constant of approx. 1 second. It is also conceivable to use a ramp generator or a similar algorithm

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instead of a low-pass filter in the filter unit 2 in order to realize a smooth transition.